

STATE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL (SIAC)

November Meeting Summary



Date | time November 17, 2021 | 10:00 a.m. | **Meeting Location** virtually via Zoom

Meeting called to order by Ivanora Alexander, Executive Director of Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs & SIAC Chair

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & UPDATES

Ivanora Alexander, Executive Director of Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs (OCSHCN) and SIAC Chair, welcomed members, alternates, and guests to the meeting, then called the meeting to order.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Review of October Meeting Summary

Melissa Goins made a motion to approve. **Denitta Mercier** – second to the motion. Motion carried.

Standing Committees Updates

SIAC Chair Alexander brought to SIAC the frequency of Standing Committees reporting. SIAC Chair Alexander reported Standing Committee Chairs and Staff recommend a quarterly written summary with the highlights from the summary verbalized. SIAC Chair Alexander posed the question if SIAC would prefer monthly or quarterly. Members discussed, and the consensus was quarterly. SIAC Chair Alexander stated that if there is a special project or need to bring to SIAC, we will place it on the agenda.

HOPE FOR FAMILIES AND YOUTH

Dyzz Cooper, System of Care FIVE Youth Leadership Coordinator, and **Amanda Metcalf**, System of Care FIVE Family Leadership Coordinator, presented from a youth and parent perspective how youth and families feel while involved in the child welfare system. Mr. Cooper and Ms. Metcalf focused on ways to support and encourage youth and families while they are involved in the child welfare system. They presented the stages that youth and families may go through as well as tips on how support the youth and family at each stage. The key point in holding hope is to “Hold hope for families who can’t see hope for themselves.” Helping a family see hope for their future gives a family hope to make needed changes for their families. Mr. Cooper and Ms. Metcalf shared resources, ways to advocate for families, and Importance of keeping family- and youth-driven the focus [see *Meeting Handouts* for copy of PowerPoint presentation].

KENTUCKY KIDS COUNT COUNTY DATA

Amy Swann, Research Director at Kentucky Youth Advocates, introduced the 31st annual edition of the Kentucky KIDS COUNT County Data Book, which she stated focuses on racial equity more than ever before. Ms. Swann highlighted several data state-level data trends as well as providing information on how to access county data [<https://kyyouth.org/kentucky-kids-count/>]. The data book goes beyond data to a call to action, and there is a page (page 13) dedicated to state and local policymakers as well as advocates on how to use the book to effect change. Ms. Swann reminded everyone that the data does not yet reflect the true impact of the pandemic due to the lag in how long it takes to collect data [see *Meeting Handouts* for copy of PowerPoint presentation].

SIAC MEMBER UPDATES

Ivanora Alexander, OCSHCN, reported their Care Coordination Academy is in full swing. Ms. Alexander reported the Care Coordination Academy is available through a grant to expand care coordination clinics that they received through Boston University. Nurses, nursing care coordinators, and social workers are participating, and they would like to expand to add mental health. They are looking at adopting measurement tools from Boston University. Ms. Alexander reported

November 12 was the kickoff of their Craniofacial Clinic at its new location at Turfland Medical Center in Lexington. This is a multi-disciplinary clinic focused on cleft lip and palate. Ms. Alexander reported OCSHCN has positions posted on the Kentucky Personnel website for nurses and administrative specialists.

Marta Miranda-Straub, Department for Community Based Services (DCBS), reported DCBS lost 600 staff across the state in the last three months. Ms. Miranda-Straub reported they are meeting with legislators and the Governor regarding their capacity to take care of Kentucky's families. Ms. Miranda-Straub reported that the gains that they had of reducing caseloads is now reversing. Ms. Miranda-Straub reported DCBS tried to be proactive about this the last legislative session, and while the Governor agreed, none of the budget items in regards to race for capacity were funded. Ms. Miranda-Straub said they are keeping their eyes on prevention, and this week they will complete the *Upstream* learning cafes'. Ms. Miranda-Straub stated DCBS is putting in a legislative request for a Division of Primary and Secondary Prevention to report to the Commissioner's Office. Ms. Miranda-Straub reported DCBS has several pilots: Multi-Systemic Therapy; Volunteers of America (VOA) program that will keep families who are experiencing addiction together with their children as the family is going through treatment; and safe housing to support youth aging out of foster care.

Eboni Thompson, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), reported they completed their Relationships Matter and Child Welfare cross training series, an AOC and DCBS collaboration. All the sessions have been completed and recorded, and they had over 1200 participants. Ms. Thompson reported they are actively recruiting Citizens Foster Care Review Board statewide. Ms. Thompson stated she will send a flyer to Lea Taylor to distribute that gives more information. Ms. Thompson stated within the Family Juvenile Services Department, they are hiring Court Designated Workers, program coordinators, and RESTORE positions.

Christina Weeter, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), reported the Kentucky Education Summit recording is available on KET. Ms. Weeter stated there is a list of sessions at the bottom of the page with timestamps. Ms. Weeter recommended watching the student panel facilitated by the Lt. Governor in regards to student mental health. Ms. Weeter reported KDE is continuing to receive an increase in volume of calls related to school safety and bullying. Ms. Weeter reported the new program coordinator for school counseling will start at the end of December. This person will be replacing the role that Damien Sweeney held prior to taking on the position related to diversity, equity and inclusion. KDE released a tool to address Trauma Informed Discipline that is part of KDE's Trauma Informed Toolkit; it is available on KDE's website [see *Meeting Handouts* for written update].

Vestena Robbins, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID), reported she and Melissa Goins from FRYSC are working alongside the Lt. Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff to support those Action Summits mentioned by Ms. Weeter. Dr. Robbins stated she will talk to Heather Dearing, who is coordinating those, about a future presentation at SIAC. Dr. Robbins reported the behavioral health workforce is also in a critical state; the Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) that DBHDID contracts with to provide services across the state in all 120 counties are reporting workforce shortages like never before. Dr. Robbins reported they are losing members due to attrition but also to suicide and overdose. Dr. Robbins reported the CMHCs are becoming Secondary Trauma Stress and Trauma-informed organizations. They are working with University of Kentucky Center on Trauma and Children as a couple of cohorts in the Secondary Traumatic Stress Breakthrough Series Collaborative [see *Meeting Handouts* for written update].

Rhonda Logsdon, KY-SPIN, Family Organization, reported children/youth are experiencing a great deal of behaviors at an alarming rate in school right now. Ms. Logsdon said that the behaviors students and families are having, are experiencing and are struggling with throughout COVID, during remote learning, has now carried over into schools since back in session; this issue is not just isolated to children/youth with disabilities. It is across the board throughout the state. Ms. Logsdon stated we need a unified effort from many people, agencies and organizations to work to solve this problem. Ms. Logsdon asked if SIAC can we work together to develop a plan of action to help our children/youth and families; a plan that includes multiple methods, services, supports, etc. through a variety of means. Ms. Logsdon offered the suggestion of the Disability and the Social and Emotional Health and Wellbeing Standing Committees and interested committee members to serve on a SIAC task force with other stakeholders to develop a strategy. Ms. Logsdon presented a slide summarizing the Disability Standing Committee's three surveys; the link to the surveys will be emailed again. Ms. Logsdon reported KY-SPIN is hosting a Family Engagement Month Celebration. They partnered with the KY Autism Training Center to host the ABC 123 is All You Need to Know as Your Child with a Disability Begins School [see *Meeting Handouts*].

William Heffron, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), reported they continue to have staffing issues. Dr. Heffron reported they have several facilities temporarily closed so staff can help other facilities.

Note: Due to time, multiple Members/Designees emailed agency updates that were distributed after the meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Secondary Traumatic Stress – Breakthrough Series Collaborative (STS – BSC) – Dr. Ginny Sprang, Executive Director of the University of Kentucky Center on Trauma and Children – December
- LEAD KY Update – Carol Cecil, KPFC – January 2022
- SOC FIVE Year in Review – Dee Dee Ward, SOC FIVE Project Director – January 2022
- Recommendations from the Student Mental Health Action Summits – Heather Dearing and Lt. Gov. Office – Tentatively January 2022
- Tonya Stamper Meeks – advocacy work in Lexington – TBD – Callie Cartmell to send information to SIAC Administrator

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ivanora Alexander, SIAC Chair, asked for any public comment. There was none.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, December 15, 2021 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EST

Location: Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

Denitta Mercier made a motion to adjourn. **Vestena Robbins** – second to the motion. Motion carried.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

| TASK: | RESPONSIBLE PARTY: |
|--|------------------------|
| Ensure your agency or organization is represented on each SIAC Standing Committee. | SIAC Members/Designees |
| Consider Ask from Rhonda Logsdon (see KY-SPIN agency update) | SIAC Members/Designees |

IN ATTENDANCE

Members/Designees:

Ivanora Alexander, OCSHCN

Kristen Martin, DPH

Eboni Thompson, AOC

Denitta Mercier, Parent Representative

Marta Miranda-Straub, DCBS

Rhonda Logsdon, KY-SPIN

Judy Theriot, DMS

Melissa Goins, FRYSC

Vestena Robbins, DBHDID

William Heffron, DJJ

Rob Ellis, KHC

Eric Hawkins, SEJAY

Non-voting Representative:

Christina Weeter, KDE

Staff:

Lea Taylor, SIAC Administrator, DBHDID

Vanessa Brewer, RIAC Administrator, DBHDID

Guests: See Attached Zoom Report